

Math/ELA Looping

Portage High School is Making it Happen!



WE ARE home to over 7,800 students. We are located in a suburban setting with a diverse population. Our free and reduced lunch rate was at 50% for our 2014-2015 school year. There has been a great deal of retail growth in our city and the local business needs are picking up. This is promising news coming off a difficult economic time from the reduction in the workforce in our local steel mills. Portage High School meets the needs of 2500 students and has been an "A" school for three years. Our graduation rate is 92% and we have made great strides in our career and college readiness for all our students. PHS works tirelessly to continue to improve our strategies to meet the needs of all our students.

OUR STUDENTS & FAMILIES 6% of our population is ELL. The majority of our students speak Spanish, but we serve the following: Ukrainian, Thai, Arabic, Slovak, Cebuano, Cantonese, Mandarin, Macedonian, Punjabi, Tagalog, Greek, Urdu, Norwegian, Gujarati, Rumanian, Vietnamese and Czech.

OUR TEACHERS We have one half-time ELL teacher at PHS and are in the process creating a full time position to meet the needs of our diverse population.

OUR PROMISING PRACTICE The looping program services roughly 500 9th and 10th graders. Our ELA and Math teachers team up to loop with our students for English 9 & 10 and Algebra I & II. We incorporated a differentiated instruction lab period to provide enrichment and/or remediation. This practice has increased our ECA percentage passing scores from 64.9% (2010) to 77.2% (2015). We not only have met the academic needs of our students, but also focused on our Core Values and building trusting relationships between students and teachers.

OUR STEPS

- Rubric utilized for student identification
- Teacher teams established
- Curriculum maps/Common Assessments
- Emphasis of student/teacher relationship
- Critical & Core Values-Challenge Ed Team Building
- Differentiated Instruction, "The Portage Way"
- Teacher Collaboration
- Extra time –DI lab built in to the day
- Loop with students/teachers for 2 years
- Continuous data monitoring, collaboration, reflection

WORDS FROM OUR STUDENTS

"I liked that I knew what to expect from teachers, sophomore year."

"What I liked about looping was having the same teachers two years in a row. You could be yourself and not be afraid to ask questions."

"What I liked about looping was the strong friendship bonds we made and the extra help we got."

For more information about our school or corporation, email: jennifer.sass@portage.k12.in.us or visit our website: <http://www.portage.k12.in.us/domain/51>

